

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1-15 (cancelled).

16 (new): A method for determining the acceptability of a workpiece comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a workpiece;
- (b) applying a dye penetrant to at least one surface of the workpiece;
- (c) recording the penetration of the dye into the workpiece at area A_1 at time T_1 ;
- (d) storing the recording R_1 made in paragraph (3);
- (e) recording the penetration of the dye into the workpiece at area A_1 at time T_2 ;
- (f) storing the recording R_2 made in paragraph (5);
- (g) comparing R_1 and R_2 to determine a difference D in the dye penetrant into the workpiece at area A_1 for the time period ΔT , where $\Delta T = T_2 - T_1$; and
- (h) comparing the difference D to store reference values to determine the acceptability of the workpiece.

Claim 17 (new): The method as claimed in claim 16, including implementing an optical image processing by setting windows and scanning the windows by means of an image recording device, the selection and evaluation and the indication of crack faults

being automatically linked with a test sequence and data obtained is processed in a computer.

Claim 18 (new): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the image recording device produces recordings at time intervals.

Claim 19 (new): The method as claimed in claim 18, including conveying by means of a conveying device, the workpiece with a same physical orientation past at least two recording devices arranged at a distance from one another, so that recordings made by the various image recording devices of the workpiece with a constant physical orientation but at different times after the treatment with dye penetrant agent are produced, and

comparing the recordings from the various recording devices with one another by evaluation logic to determine differences and, from the differences between the recordings, signals are formed on a basis of the time intervals that have elapsed between the recordings.

Claim 20 (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, including storing in a memory of the evaluation logic reference data for image changes and data relating to a time difference between the respective time periods that have elapsed between the recordings, and the evaluation logic makes a comparison to see whether the measured difference values are within the prescribed threshold values and, accordingly, signals are output which represent only the faults within a predetermined time interval.

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Claim 21 (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein constituent parts and parameters of a system are monitored at predetermined time intervals by monitoring units and monitoring signals are output, which are checked by a measured-value processing unit and, accordingly, signals are output.